



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,016	09/15/2003	Polly Stecyk	705397.4005	1738
34313	7590	02/01/2011	EXAMINER	
ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE, LLP			MENDOZA, JUNIOR O	
IP PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT				
4 PARK PLAZA			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 1600				2423
IRVINE, CA 92614-2558				
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			02/01/2011	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/663,016	STECYK, POLLY	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	JUNIOR O. MENDOZA	2423	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 November 2010.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 and 22-35 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14 and 22-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed 11/08/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding **claims 1 and 22**, applicant argues that Rodriguez, Thomas and Johnson represent different approached to media signal censoring, see remarks p. 11.

*However, the examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that references cannot be arbitrarily combined and that there must be some reason why one skilled in the art would be motivated to make the proposed combination of Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez. However, there is no requirement that a motivation to make the modification be expressly articulated in the references. The test for combining references in what the combination of disclosures taken as a whole would suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art; since, references are evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art, rather than by their specific disclosures.*

*In this case, the applicant argues that the Rodriguez system provides a control scheme for censoring media signals based on content and viewing time with "no relation to the viewer", remarks page 10. However, Rodriguez clearly discloses that prevention of unauthorized use of the DHCT 200 may be implemented by requiring that a valid personal identification number (PIN) be*

*entered by a user every time that the DHCT 200 is turned on; further authorized users may be identified in another manner such as, for example, via the entry of a valid password or via speech or fingerprint recognition, see paragraph [0115]. Hence, the parental control scheme of Rodriguez clearly teaches censoring media signals in relation to a personal identification access mechanism related to specific users based on their content access rights.*

*The examiner notes that the independent feature of Rodriguez would perform in the same manner for single or multiple users. In fact, the Rodriguez reference does not preclude or discourage the implementation of two or more time range specification preferences (figure 29C) in combination with prior art parental control systems, such as those of Thomas and Johnson. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize a reasonable expectation of success for the implementation of different content based specifications 2904 corresponding to two or more time range specifications 2902 in combination with the parental control systems of Thomas and Johnson, as shown in Rodriguez figure 29C. Therefore, the combination of Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez is proper as presented by the examiner.*

***Terminal Disclaimer***

2. The terminal disclaimer filed on 03/24/2010 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of 10/663,015 has been reviewed and is NOT accepted.

- The terminal disclaimer does not comply with 37 CFR 1.321(b) and/or (c)  
because: Commonly owned is needed after the enforceable clause the words "legal title" do not include common ownership as to equitable title. The person who signed the Terminal disclaimer does not have POA 3.73(B) statement and thus not of record (See Terminal Disclaimer Review Decision mailed on 04/21/2010).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
  - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
4. **Claims 1 – 14 and 22 – 35** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas (Patent No 7,134,130) in view of Johnson et al. (Pub No US 2004/0078806) further in view of Rodriguez et al. (Pub No US 2009/0282428).  
Hereinafter referenced as Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez, respectively.

Regarding **claim 1**, Thomas discloses a consumer electronics device having media supervision enforcement circuitry for supervising personal exposure to user discernible information, comprising:

a first logic unit configured for generating viewer indicators indicative of viewers present in a viewing area (image recognition [212] determines that a user is present in a given area having access to the display, column 7 lines 43-44 also exhibited on fig 2);

non-volatile memory configured for receiving viewing profiles (viewing criteria [216] specifies which users have access to a content or various types of content, column 9 lines 57-59; a memory containing user profiles, column 2 lines 9-13; moreover, Thomas discloses that all the IDE connectors [124] are standard devices such as hard drives, which are non volatile memory, column 5 lines 24-27);

a second logic unit coupled to the first logic unit and the non-volatile memory and being configured for comparing a viewer indicator with viewing profiles to identify an active viewing profile and a content-based indicator (rating) with the active viewing profile (decision and command processor [214] couples to image recognition [212] or first memory and also couples to viewing criteria [216] or non-volatile memory as exhibited on figure 2; Moreover, decision and command processor [214] compares the user currently being recognized with the viewing criteria corresponding to that user, column 9 lines 59-63),

the second logic unit being further configured for generating a control signal in response to the comparison between the content-based indicator and the viewing profiles (control signal [215], column 6 lines 57-58 also exhibited on fig 2);

and a signal impairment mechanism coupled to the second logic unit and configured for, based on the control signal, selectively passing a program signal there through without substantial impairment corresponding to the active viewing profile or

passing the program signal there through with substantial impairment if the content – based indicator exceeds corresponding to the active viewing profile (display controller [222] selectively controlling the display of content information based content rating and user's profile, blocking or allowing the signal, column 7 lines 45-48 fig 2).

However, it is noted that Thomas fails to explicitly disclose a non-volatile memory configured for receiving a plurality of viewing profiles for selected viewers wherein the plurality of viewing profiles include content-based specifications and wherein one or more of the plurality of viewing profiles include two or more time range specifications and different content-based specifications corresponding to each of the two or more time range specifications; comparing a reference time with the active viewing profile; selectively passing a program signal there through without substantial impairment if the reference time falls outside of the two or more time range specifications corresponding to the active viewing profile or the content-based indicator does not exceed the content-based specification corresponding to one of the two or more of time range specifications of the active viewing profile within which the reference time falls or passing the program signal there through with substantial impairment if the content-based indicator exceeds the content-based specification corresponding to one of the two or more time range specifications of the active viewing profile within which the reference time falls within.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Johnson discloses a non-volatile memory configured for receiving a plurality of viewing profiles for selected viewers (Paragraph [0016]),

wherein the plurality of viewing profiles include content-based specifications  
(Paragraph [0029] also exhibited on fig 5 and 6)

and wherein one or more of the plurality of viewing profiles include two or more time range specifications (Paragraph [0029] [0082] also exhibited on fig 6; weekday time ranges and weekend time ranges);

comparing a reference time (system 25 master clock) with the active viewing profile (Paragraphs [0061] [0062] figures 2 and 3; user 1, 2... 5);

selectively passing a program signal there through without substantial impairment if the reference time falls outside of the two or more time range specifications corresponding to the active viewing profile or the content-based indicator does not exceed the content-based specification corresponding to one of the two or more of time range specifications of the active viewing profile within which the reference time falls (Paragraph [0081]-[0083] figure 6; content meeting the preset profile rating limits are presented to the viewer),

or passing the program signal there through with substantial impairment if the content-based indicator exceeds the content-based specification corresponding to one of the two or more time range specifications of the active viewing profile within which the reference time falls within (Paragraph [0081]-[0083] figure 6; content over the preset profile rating limits are blocked to the viewer).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Thomas by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Johnson, for the predictable result of implementing a

reliable and accurate parenting control scheme which allows children only watch appropriate content rating at predetermined times.

However, it is noted that Thomas and Johnson fail to explicitly disclose different content-based specifications corresponding to each of the two or more time range specifications.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Rodriguez discloses different content-based specifications corresponding to each of the two or more time range specifications (Paragraphs [0124 [0116] figure 29C; blocking content based on content based parameters 2904 independently specific to each time range 2902).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the viewing profiles of Thomas and Johnson, by specifically providing a plurality of time range specification which corresponds to content based specifications, as taught by Rodriguez, for the purpose of implementing a reliable and accurate parenting control scheme which allows parents to block questionable content using a combination of time ranges and rating settings for different periods of time when children are awake and asleep.

Regarding **claim 2**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose the consumer electronics device of claim 1; moreover, Thomas discloses that each of the viewing profiles comprises a viewer specification (viewing criteria [216] that specifies the material that each user has access to, column 9 lines 57-59 also exhibited on fig 2)

and a content-based specification corresponding to the viewer specification (the broadcasted program includes a viewer rating, which indicates whether a user has access to it or not based on such information in relation to a user's profile, column 8 lines 4-15).

Regarding **claim 3**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose the consumer electronics device of claim 2; moreover, Thomas discloses an output device coupled to the signal impairment mechanism for transforming the program signal into the user discernible information (display [224] which displays the information to be viewable to a user, column 7 lines 40-42 also exhibited on fig 2).

Regarding **claim 4**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose the consumer electronics device of claim 1; however, it is noted that Thomas fails to explicitly disclose a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer and content-based specifications into the non-volatile memory for storage.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Johnson discloses a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer and content-based specifications into the non-volatile memory for storage (Paragraph [0008]; figure 4-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Thomas by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Johnson, for the purpose allowing the user to edit and add viewer profiles.

Regarding **claim 5**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose the consumer electronics device of claim 1; moreover, Thomas discloses that the non-volatile memory includes a look-up list for storing a plurality of viewer specification and associated content-based specifications (user [99] programs the system [200] by providing a list of persons and a rating of content suitable for each of those persons or a person rating, column 10 lines 58-60; moreover, such list is located in the viewing criteria [216] which specifies what users have access to a content or various types of content, column 9 lines 57-59).

Regarding **claim 6**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose the consumer electronics device of claim 1; moreover, Thomas discloses that the program signal carries the content-based indicator (program content signal [221] included a content indicator signal [219], column 6 lines 63-65), and

further comprising a data extraction device coupled to the logic unit for extracting the content-based indicator (decision and command processor [214] receives and extract the content indicator signal [219], column 7 lines 1-5).

Regarding **claim 7**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose the consumer electronics device of claim 1; moreover, Thomas discloses that the signal impairment device is a switch (decision and command processor [214] can either totally block the

signal or replace the signal by another signal, column 8 lines 20-23; where device [214] performs as a switch.

Regarding **claim 8**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose the consumer electronics device of claim 1; moreover, Thomas discloses that the output device is a television system audio/video output device (display [224] displays a television signal, column 7 lines 17-21).

Regarding **claim 9**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose the consumer electronics device of claim 1; moreover, Thomas discloses that the first logic unit is a computer configured to run facial recognition software (image recognition [212] determines that a user is present in a given area having access to the display, column 7 lines 43-44 also exhibited on fig 2; moreover, Thomas discloses that image recognition [212] includes a software program which controls the image recognition processor, col. 7 lines 54-55).

Regarding **claim 10**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose the consumer electronics device of claim 1; moreover, Thomas discloses that a camera coupled to the first logic unit and configured to continuously scan the viewing area associated with the consumer electronic device (room scanner [210] includes a video camera that acquires an image of the monitored are or room, column 7 lines 52-54 also exhibited on fig 2;

moreover, Thomas discloses that the video camera can be any other similar imaging device, column 10 lines 33-34).

Regarding **claim 11**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose the consumer electronics device of claim 1; moreover, Thomas discloses that each of the viewing profiles comprises a viewer specification (a viewing criteria [216] which specifies the material that each user has access to, column 9 lines 57-59 also exhibited on fig 2).

However, it is noted that Thomas fails to explicitly disclose that each of the viewing profiles comprises a finite time range specification and a content-based specification corresponding to the viewer and time range specifications.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Johnson discloses that each of the viewing profiles comprises a finite time range specification and a content-based specification corresponding to the viewer and time range specifications (Paragraphs [0029] [0061] [0082] also exhibited on fig 5 and 6; weekday time ranges, weekend time ranges and rating limits).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Thomas by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Johnson, for the purpose of implementing a reliable and accurate parenting control scheme which allows children to watch safer educational content.

Regarding **claim 12**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose the consumer electronics device of claim 1; however, it is noted that Thomas fails to explicitly disclose a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer, time range and content-based specifications into the non-volatile memory for storage.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Johnson discloses a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer, time range and content-based specifications into the non-volatile memory for storage (Paragraph [0008] [0016] [0029] [0082] also exhibited on fig 5-6).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Thomas by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Johnson, for the purpose of implementing a reliable and accurate parenting control scheme which allows children to watch safer educational content.

Regarding **claim 13**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose the consumer electronics device of claim 1; moreover, Thomas discloses that the non-volatile memory includes a look-up list for storing a plurality of viewer specification (A memory containing user profiles, column 2 lines 9-13; moreover, Thomas discloses that all the IDE connectors [124] are standard devices such as hard drives, which are non volatile memory, column 5 lines 24-27. Where system [200] includes a list of persons and the rating of content suitable for each of those persons, column 10 lines 58-60).

However, it is noted that Thomas fails to explicitly disclose that the non-volatile memory includes a look-up list for storing associated time range and content-based specifications.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Johnson discloses that the non-volatile memory includes a look-up list for storing associated time range and content-based specifications (Paragraph [0016] [0029] [0082] fig 5 and 6; a memory stores the user profile records which includes the rating limits and viewing hours).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Thomas by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Johnson, for the purpose of implementing a reliable and accurate parenting control scheme which allows children to watch safer educational content.

Regarding **claim 14**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose the consumer electronics device of claim 1; moreover, Thomas discloses that the program signal carries the content-based indicator and timing information (program content (220) provides a content indication signal (219) indicative of the type of content in the program material, column 6 lines 62-65); moreover, program content [220] contains information about the time-span of the program material, column 7 lines 6-8),

and further comprising a data extraction device coupled to the logic unit for extracting the content-based indicator and timing information (Program content [220]

outputs the program content signal [221] and a content indicator signal [219] which is then coupled to decision and command processor [214], column 6 lines 63-65 also exhibited on fig 2).

Regarding **claim 22**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose all the limitations of claim 22; therefore, claim 22 is rejected for the same reasons as in claim 1.

Regarding **claim 23**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose the recordable medium of claim 22; moreover, Thomas discloses that the viewer monitoring system comprises a facial recognition system (user recognition input device [208], column 9 lines 14-16 also exhibited on 2).

Regarding **claim 24**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose all the limitations of claim 24; therefore, claim 24 is rejected for the same reasons as in claims 9 and 10, respectively.

Regarding **claims 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose all the limitations of claims 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32; therefore, claims 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 are rejected for the same reasons as in claims 2, 3, 4, 13, 14, 7, 8 and 11, respectively.

Regarding **claims 33, 34 and 35**, Thomas, Johnson and Rodriguez disclose all the limitations of claims 33, 34 and 35; therefore, claims 33, 34 and 35 are rejected for the same reasons as in claims 4, 13 and 14, respectively.

***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JUNIOR O. MENDOZA whose telephone number is (571)270-3573. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Koenig can be reached on (571)272-7296. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Junior O Mendoza  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2423

/J. O. M./  
January 28, 2011

/Andrew Y Koenig/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2423